TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

NEWSLETTER

JULY , 2002

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Bud Hughes K4CWG

Field Day this year may be remembered as Flood Day. I am of the opinion that this year's club Field Day radio operations will be remembered for some time. In retrospect if it were not for the down pour we would probably have missed the opportunity to exchange war stories with friends as we sought shelter underneath a 10x20 canopy.

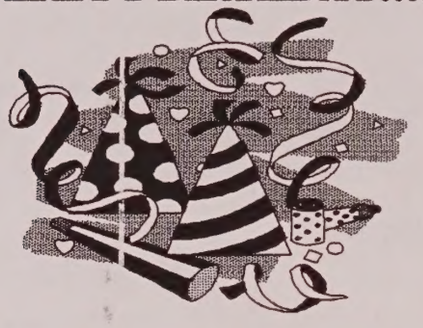
The food at the Field Day site was absolutely outstanding. The girls, including Becky, Pat, Cori, and Sherry did a great job. Again this year, Bill K4CUO really put the ole chef's professional touch to the barbecue. With Bill's schedule, one must wonder what the girls threatened him with to get him to do the barbecue again this year. Thanks Bill. The club is indebted to you. By the way - I offered to lend my cooking expertise, but Sherry asked me to hold off and find some other chore that needed my attention.

A thank you goes to many who worked so hard putting together this year's FD activities. Thanks to Anthony for acquiring the use of COM 1. Thanks to the antenna crew, area clean-up gang and most of all my personal thanks to the fellows who helped transporting, loading and unloading the equipment after the event was over.

Don't forget the club meeting Tuesday, July 23 at 7:00 PM. Bring a friend.

73' & 88'

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!



JULY BIRTHDAYS

JUL. 02 KG4IMO JASON WOODRING
JUL. 04 KG4FXR LEE ERSKINE
JUL. 04 K1TJK THOMAS KELLY
JUL. 06 KG4LKQ EDWARD ALLEN
JUL. 08 W4NMB HOLLAND STARKEY
JUL. 08 WN3DHI ARCHIE SHETLER
JUL. 09 KD4JBL WILLIE WILLIAMS
JUL. 10 WB9MFJ LARRY CARR
JUL. 11 KF4IGN DORIS GIONET
JUL. 15 KG4KBQ BEAU GRANTHAM
JUL. 18 KU4LA JOE TIPTON, SR.
JUL. 21 KC4RUF THOMAS RAC
JUL. 23 KT4UD LEONARD ZBIEGIEN
JUL. 23 KG4LOB ERROL STEVENS
JUL. 25 WAOVED JIM WOODRING
JUL. 27 KV4DC ROE WEAVER
JUL. 27 AE4CB DAVID HURST
JUL. 27 KF4KUN SAMUEL DENMAN
JUL. 28 KE4AGM RICHARD LASURE
JUL. 30 WD8JLT BRIAN SONNENBERG
JUL. 31 KG4MCT JOHN O'REILLY

FOR SALE

Kenwood TS520 Low Band - $200

2 mtr Ringo Ranger Antenna - $25

Tom AC4DY
364-2205

DO YOU 10-10?

BOB, N6USP OFFERS SOME HELPFUL ADVICE ON THE SUBJECT

Go to <www.hds.net/win1010.htm>. This is for 10-10 info and an application for joining. I can help you with this if interested. 10-10 suite, click on download and you can get a screen snapshot of the program. 28.345, 28.380, 28.800 are the nets held at 19:00 UTZ.. Check in on 28.380 and they will help you, also.

It is a neat logging program with the DX ATLAS that works with it. You can e-mail right out of it, too. On the DX Atlas when you type in call sign hit MAP. It brings up DX Atlas and pin points his location plus gives you the bearing to set your beam headings. It has a nice relief view and a zoom over 300%. I use this and it's the greatest.

It has all sorts of logging programs. I'm testing these, too.

I just found out that you can go to Buckmaster and bid on the latest CD ROM. Starting bid is $30. They have 3 or 4 auctions. Look for the one that closes at noon. 10 minutes before noon place your bid. It will show if anyone has bid on it yet and what the asking bid is. They sell for $50 so you can save $15 to $18. I've seen bids as low as $31.

If anyone wants any information, just contact me during the day on 10 meters 28.345 and chasing DX on 14.260 in the evenings. Sometimes on the repeater if I don't have the volume turned down. 73's Bob N6USP

CORRESPONDENCE
From 7/2002 QSL

EASING THE LEARNING PROCESS:

If I were to mention names like Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison, Pable Picasso, Muhammed Ali, Sir Winston Churchill, Werner von Braun and Gen. George S. Patton and ask you what they all had in common, how would you answer? You might say that they were all famous people who excelled at their given career field. But did you know that all also were diagnosed with a condition now known as dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a condition that can make traditional learning methods quite difficult. One very challenging task for the dyslexic is Morse code. In fact only about 16% of all dyslexics can comprehend the code; the remaining 84% transpose sounds just as they do with letters.

Given this, why do we not have methods in place to enable people with this condition a means of gaining HF privileges? While code is indeed important, devices have been developed that will assist the deaf or dyslexic in translating code into text. Knowing the statistics that we do, why don't we allow the use of these aids for those who have this learning disability when seeking code testing?

We should seek to allow code translators to be used as an assistive device for people who have proven diagnoses for dyslexia, just as we allow assistive devices for other established disabilities.

If I were to tell you that if six of the seven people I listed above would be unable to pass a 5 WPM code test because of dyslexia, wouldn't you think our hobby would be missing out on some very amazing people?

Rob Hoitt, KC1FSK, Manchester, New Hampshire

A CASE FOR 5-2

The use of simplex VHF radio seems to have died out in ham radio. Repeaters and multi-mode rigs have overshadowed a more basic and in many ways a very important means of communication

Early crystal controlled 6 or 12 channel mobile rigs came factory equipped, crystaled up with what was called the National Simplex Calling Frequency of 146.520 MHz. We learned that mobile coverage on 5-2 wasn't half bad and with a base station antenna it provided rather good range and in some ways extended several miles depending on terrain.

If your state had a repeater it may not have had complete coverage in your home and work area, and a simplex channel was very desirable if not necessary. Because of this, 5-2 was used to establish initial contact with someone and if a ragchew was pursued, they switched to a secondary working channel. This Calling and Working method was used successfully for decades in worldwide marine CW communications.

In organizations like Civil Defense and Disaster Control, RACES and the Red Cross, volunteers found simplex FM emergency nets a giant leap in performance over the old AM mode. Repeater directories listed the new and popular repeaters but coverage was always a question left unanswered for a mobile outside his home area. Since 5-2 was well monitored, you could always roust up a local ham to get recommendations for repeaters that would cover your particular mobile route.

By the early 1980s 5-2 lost popularity because these first generation rigs didn't have built-in PL (CTCSS), were not synthesized and couldn't keep up with the proliferation of repeaters.

Often as I travel the East Coast I monitor 5-2. When I spot a call sign license plate or an ARRL window

sticker and a 2 meter whip I would pull up alongside, wave my microphone at the window and hold up 5 fingers and then 2 fingers until I got an acknowledgment. On one trip from Rhode Island to New Jersey, a long and tiring drive, I gave a call on 5-2 and raised another mobile not far away. I discovered he and his wife were heading in the same direction and we were in contact for over 100 miles. It was most pleasant. No break-ins asking "How am I doing?" nor was I worried about how many minutes I was using on my "monthly plan." Our wives shared the mic and joined in on a topic they liked also. The lively QSO kept us both alert and time flew by.

But this is not always the case. On a recent 700 mile trip from New Jersey to Bar Harbor, Maine, I could only raise one ham on 5-2. I found a local repeater but coverage through the mountains of Vermont didn't hold a signal for very long. I barely got driving instructions to a lunch counter and gas station. I have driven several thousand miles and seldom found someone on 5-2. But when I do, I congratulate them for their attention to the NSCF. It's nice to know someone is out there if you need help.

Some hams do not use 5-2 but instead use secondary channels. They tell me they consider 5-2 an Emergency Channel and do not want to tie it up. I encourage them to continue to use the NSCF. How would any of us know someone is listening if nobody uses it? All they have to do is leave a long pause between transmissions to let a stranger in.

I believe so strongly in 5-2 that I have resurrected my old Clegg MK-s crystal rig and permanently mounted it in my car. To ease congestion under the dashboard, I mounted the radio in the trunk and ran mic, speaker and on-off wires to the front of the car. I preset the 1W volume control for comfortable audio even with the windows open. The Clegg puts out 15 W of RF and uses direct FM so I always get good reports. A 2 by 4 speaker is Velcroed under the seat and is out of sight. The rig can't be seen and therefore I never have to remove it when I park in strange places. Having the rig preset means I never have to take my eyes off the road to check a display or the positions of dual function push buttons.

With a designated 5-2 setup, your favorite multi-band or HF/combo rig doesn't have to do double duty, which means only one duty at a time. It can supplement your mobile or home base operations and be a great help to others in time of need. ***5-2 should be for you. J. M. (Mike) Shaw, K2LRE, Caldwell, New Jersey***

THE DOCTOR IS IN

Question: Mandu, VU2MUD, writes: I am interested in joining any discussion groups on antenna topics. I am new to the Internet. Can you provide some guidance for em?

Answer: There are several mechanisms for discussion on just about any topic on the Internet. The most popular are probably chat rooms, reflectors and newsgroups. Each has its advantages and disadvantages.

Chat Rooms are live discussions with a group of people keyboarding back and forth. All the comments appear on the screen as they are sent. AOL has an easy to use chat room mechanism, as does Microsoft's MSN. The disadvantage is that there is no record of what has gone on before. Most chat rooms are populated by folks who just want live conversation. The subject matter often strays from the posted subject.

Reflectors are e-mail based groups. An e-mail sent to the reflector is automatically sent to all its members. These groups tend to stay on topic and some very good information is exchanged. Another advantage is that (as opposed to chat rooms, where

everything is "on-the-fly" whizzing by as fast as people can keyboard you have the luxury of being able to digest a message and formulate a response or addition if you are so inclined. The downside is that your e-mail In-box can be filled with messages almost every day. Most e-mail programs contain filtering protocols that allow you to have e-mail from the reflector automatically go to a separate folder in your In-box. This makes your regular e-mail easier to manage. **Mailman.qth.net/** is a place to look for active reflectors. A drop-down alphabetical list contains many reflectors, including those covering antennas.

Newsgroups can be compared to the bulletin board at work or school. They are also divided into special interests on almost every topic on (or off) the planet. It is very simple to "subscribe" to a newsgroup. The advantage over the reflector is that nothing is sent to your computer. Subscribing means only that of all the thousands of newsgroups (there are upward of 45,000) only the ones you "subscribe" to will appear on your newsreader when you open it. Most e-mail programs have a newsreader included.

You access a newsgroup of choice and see a list of messages posted by Subject, Date, Sender, etc. Clicking on the subject line will open the individual message for reading (much like reading e-mail). Individuals can post a reply to a message, thereby creating a "thread," or you may post new messages. Newsgroups are an excellent resource for obtaining "how-to" information because they have the widest audience. Instruction on accessing newsgroups is best obtained by contacting the Tech Support for your ISP (the company that provides your access to the internet; if you are in a university or a corporation, contact your network administrator.) The newsgroup for antenna discussion is **rec.radio.amateur.antenna.**

A word of caution: You're likely to find language that can best be described as "no holds barred." Those who post messages to newsgroups often express strong opinions.

Question: James Crawford, AE6CP/VK8JAC, writes: My ham shack is located on the 2nd story of a townhouse style complex. If I want to keep my wife happy, and I do, moving the shack to the ground floor is not an option. I rent the place as well, so making any modifications to the property is not authorized. There is not a single water pipe accessible upstairs. The only way I can get a ground is to run a line out the hamshack window to the ground into a grounding stake. This makes the run 15 to 20 feet in length approximately, maybe a little bit more. I believe this is too long of a run and may radiate at certain frequencies. Is there any other way to safely get a ground for my rig from a second floor ham shack?

Answer: Yes. Safety ground can be accomplished by connecting to the ground in your house wiring. A way to do this is to check with an ohmmeter (with the circuit breaker off) that the little screw that holds your wall plug plate is grounded to the ground hole in the socket (the third D shaped hole). If it is, you can connect all your station equipment together with a ground strap (one made from the braid of discarded coax is fine) and then connect this to the little screw. That takes care of the safety ground.

Now you must provide an RF ground. This can be accomplished in two different ways. The MFJ-931 Artificail RF Ground (www.mfgenterprises.com/) can do the job. Or, you may choose to lay a counterpoise (wires) along the floor, possibly one for each band used. One place that works well is out of sight along the baseboards.

MYSTERY MEMBER

This is a picture of one of our club members taken quite a few years ago.
Haven't a clue?
The August newsletter will reveal his/her identity.
And we will print a picture of another "mystery member"

ABELL'S ANECDOTES

By Pike Abell W4EPU

WILL RETURN NEXT MONTH

JUNE MINUTES

By Becky KF4Htb

The meeting opened with Pledge, moment of silence, and introduction of members and guests, Bud K4CWG asked for volunteers to help with the 4th of July Fireworks.

He also told the members that LesK4SJC was home from the hospital and that they had decided to treat him with medication rather than put in a pacemaker.

Anthony KF4CEB told the club about connecting a camera so that Dave NB5EM could see what was going on at Field Day.

Stephanie K4MVO gave a run-down of upcoming happenings of interest to club members.

During the program portion of the meeting, Ozzie, N4SCY talked about some of his favorite QSOs and then invited other members to tell about their favorite QSOs. It was an interesting program.

There is only a slight difference between keeping your chin up and sticking your neck out, but it's worth knowing.

Blessed is he who, having nothing to say, refrains from giving wordy evidence of the fact.

In any controversy the instant we feel anger we have already ceased striving for truth, and have begun striving for ourselves.

TREASURERS REPORT

By Becky Lee, KF4HTB

Balance forward from 2001	$4574.11
Deposits Year to Date	1923.80
TOTAL INCOME	**$6497.91**
Expenditures	4505.40
BALANCE AS AT 5/30/02	**$1992.51**

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Bud Hughes, K4CWG. 269-0779
V.Pres: Ozzie Osband, N4SCY. 321-LIFTOFF
Sec/Treas: Becky Lee, KF4HTB, 267-9375

ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Pat Renninger, KF4LTY. 267-9431
John Renninger, KE4ZPA. 267-9431
Ralph Hall AE4LE
Sherry Hughes, KU4ZO. 269-0779

REPEATER CUSTODIAN BOARD

Les Griner, K4SJC (146.91) 267-1565
Warren Murray, W4CEL (146.97) 638-5476
Dave McLean, WB4SIG (444.15) 267-6181
Larry Carr, WB9MFJ (Packet-Rose Node) 268-4114

CLUB INFORMATION

Meetings: Monthly on 4th Tuesday at 1900 hrs. at Jaycee Building

Newsletter Editors: KF4HTB Becky Lee
K4EOS Clyde Lee

Nets: **VIP**-Thursdays at 1000 hrs. 146.910
Friendship-Thursdays at 1830 hrs. 146.910
Mosquito-Wednesdays at 1900 hrs. 28.333
Traders-Mondays at 1000 hrs 146.910
Red Eye-Sundays 6AM-7AM 7.165 MHz

TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P. O. BOX 73
TITUSVILLE FL 32781-0073

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Total membership: 188 (129 regular, 44 family, 11 honorary, 4 other)

NEW MEMBERS:

KG4PCK MICHAEL CARTER
KG4PGK BARBARA CARTER

RENEWALS:

KE4AGM RICHARD LASURE
KV4BY CLARENCE BAUER
KD4EYR JUNE ROLL
K4JYX JOHN ADAMS
KE4WW MATTIE ADAMS
N4LOV MIKE HENSLEY
W9LSD DICK DUEL
AD4PP JERRY MOSKOVITZ
W4REN JAN FERGUSON
KT4SY EDDIE GASS
K2TNT GEORGE FISCHER

HAMFESTS:

07/26-27 MILTON
08/17 FT. PIERCE
08/24 TAMPA
09/14-15 MELBOURNE
09/21 NEW PORT RICHEY
09/28 DAYTONA BEACH
10/12 STARKE
10/19 JACKSONVILLE
11/09 PORT ST. LUCIE
11/23 OKEECHOBEE